



REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION	Application #	10/518,900
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	First Inventor	SAMSON
	Art Unit	3767
	Examiner	MACNEILL, Elizabeth
	Docket #	P08517US00/RFH

Commissioner for Patents
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S I R:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed August 21, 2007 and to the rejections set forth therein, reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested for the reasons which follow.

Claims 1-13 and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being "unpatentable over" the previously cited Williams reference in view of the newly cited Schulte reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Schulte reference is concerned with physiological draining systems for draining liquid such as cranial fluid. Such drainage systems are structurally very different from the breast pumps with respect to which the present application is concerned. Further, the purpose of the drainage systems disclosed by Schulte is to alleviate symptoms of hydrocephalus and other symptoms of the body. Clearly, expressing breast milk from a mother cannot in any way be regarded as alleviation of symptoms of an ailment. In addition, the drainage systems of Schulte are intended to be used in situations where there is an invasive act being performed on the human body (e.g., inserting a cannula to drain fluids). Again, this is clearly different from the non-invasive act of expressing breast milk.

The system disclosed by Schulte is essentially a "tap" and the teachings of Schulte are not relevant to pressure/vacuum generation. The diaphragm or membrane is said to be "responsive to downstream suction" and the Schulte patent further states "[w]hen the suction is excessive, the control closes the system to flow so as to prevent over-drainage of the source region" (see the Abstract). Accordingly, the membrane is either in an open position or a closed position, and switches between positions only by